

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# **Land for Maine's Future Program**

*Protecting Maine's natural heritage and future economic health*

***The 2011 Biennial  
Report***

*to the*

***Joint Standing  
Committee on  
Agriculture,  
Conservation & Forestry***

***Augusta  
February 2011***



# Agenda

- Program overview
  - Program status
  - Case Studies
  - Recent projects sample
- 
- Need more? Visit [www.maine.gov/spo/lmf](http://www.maine.gov/spo/lmf)





# LMF Mission

To secure the future social and economic well-being of the citizens of this State by maintaining the quality and availability of productive lands and natural areas...

*(recreation, working farms, forests & waterfronts, hunting, fishing, conservation, wildlife habitat incl. deer yards, vital ecological functions and scenic beauty)*

# Types of LMF Projects

- Conservation and recreation
  - *Emphasizing public access for outdoor recreation, working landscapes, wildlife habitat and ecological integrity*
- Water access
  - *Small parcels for boat ramps, hand-carry launch sites, swimming and fishing access*
- Farmland protection
  - *Purchase of development rights and fee interests in productive, active farmland*
- Working Waterfront
  - *Pilot program to protect commercial marine fishing access*

# History

- Created in 1987 with \$35 million bond issue
- In 1997, new priorities set by an appointed commission of Maine citizens
- \$50 million bond issue in 1999 rejuvenated the program and amended its charge to allow local ownership
- \$41.25 million in 3 bonds since 2005 - Working Waterfront Protection Pilot Program added



# Structure

- 11 member board (5 agencies & 6 public)
- All confirmed by Legislature
- Committees:
  - *Appraisal*
  - *Scoring*
  - *Nomination*
  - *Easement* (large-scale forest)

# General Principles

- Hunting, fishing, trapping and public access are sought on all conservation projects
- 'Willing seller only' - Board policy
- 1::1 match now required to leverage LMF funds
- 2/3 Legislative approval is required to sell parcel or change its use from a purpose stated in the LMF statute
- The State holds lands of statewide significance; towns and land trusts may hold properties of local and regional significance



# Public notice & input

- Notice sent to host municipalities & legislators when applications received and when project finalists designated
- Notice sent to legislators and municipal officials prior to final board votes
- Public notice and hearing prior to final board vote on any project
- All Board meetings publicized and open
- Agenda, Minutes & news on website
- Call for new proposals is open to all

# What's new?

- Legislature increased the requirement for match funds from 1::2 to 1::1
- Board has added economic benefit criteria to the scoring criteria for conservation projects *(already included for farm and working waterfront projects)*.

# Public access

- Since 1987, need for “availability” of land for recreation recognized in LMF’s legislative mission
- 1997 LAPAC study and 2004 program evaluation reconfirmed public access as a central purpose of LMF
- Public access continues as a statewide issue
- Virtually all LMF mainland acquisitions are accessible by vehicle



# Independently evaluated

## FINDINGS:

- Continues to be an urgent need for a state-funded land conservation effort
- There is broad public support (*59% support for 2010 LMF bond*)
- LMF should continue for the foreseeable future

*Conducted by the Margaret Chase Smith Center (UM) and the New England Environmental Finance Center (USM)*

# LMF Status

- Since 1987, over 450 transactions completed on almost 300 projects statewide
- 102 transactions on 62 projects in the last two years
- Since 1987, 532,000 acres conserved (*roughly 55% easement and 45% fee*)
- 25 projects involving 36 transactions underway
- New round of projects anticipated in 2011
- Detailed statistics will be provided later in the session



# Dollars & acres aren't the full picture...

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- >15,000 acres of deer yards conserved
- Over 1150 miles of shoreline conserved
- > ¼ million acres of working forest conserved
- 29 working farms conserved
- Many miles of recreational trails protected (including 158 miles of vital snowmobile routes)
- 24 State & regional parks and WMA's created or expanded
- 50 water access sites approved
- 17 working waterfronts protected



# Partnerships

- In 1999, the Legislature authorized direct grants to towns and land trusts. These grants are governed by contractual “project agreements” (PA’s)
- Experience with grant recipients continues to be very positive.
- Annual reporting has been smooth.
- More than 40 new PA’s signed with towns and land trusts in ‘08-09. Over 130 PA’s in total.

# Conservation Easement Registry

- Legislation to strengthen Maine's conservation easement statutes adopted in Sept 2007
- SPO directed to establish a statewide registry for conservation easements for easements
- Registry launched in 2009
- Applies to all conservation easement holders (public & nonprofit)
- More detailed report later this session



# **Small Business Case Study – Aroostook Rails to Trails**

- LMF Supported acquisition of 71+ miles of trail – major snowmobile routes
- County trail system has national prominence with major economic benefit
- Griffin's One Stop in Washburn does  $\frac{1}{3}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  of winter gas sales to sledders
- Real estate values are up
- A B&B has been developed for visitors



# Leavitt Plantation – a case study of local initiative

- Parsonsfield citizens see looming breakup threat of large ownership that is their economic foundation - more than a third of residents derive income from the forest.
- Town votes to contribute \$50,000 directly and raises a total of \$575,000 locally.
- Partnership between Town of Parsonsfield, Department of Conservation, LMF, The Nature Conservancy, GMO (landowner) and many others
- **Result:** The 8600 acre Leavitt Plantation Forest is conserved for forestry, recreation and wildlife habitat... the land has been resold but the Town is assured that future access to this parcel is protected!

*Welcome*  
TO THE  
**Downeast Lakes**  
**LAND TRUST**  
**FARM COVE COMMUNITY FOREST**

Please use it with respect and to preserve Downeast traditional values

- ▲ **WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION**
- ▲ **SUSTAINABLE TIMBER MANAGEMENT**
- ▲ **PUBLIC ACCESS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

27,000 acres managed for the economic benefit of the community



Downeast Lakes Land Trust  
P.O. Box 75  
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04627  
207-796-2100  
[www.downeastlakes.org](http://www.downeastlakes.org)



**Farm Cove**





**Port Clyde Coop**





**Newport to Dover-Foxcroft Rail Trail**



**Kelley Farm**





**Branch Lake**





**Grafton - Stowe**





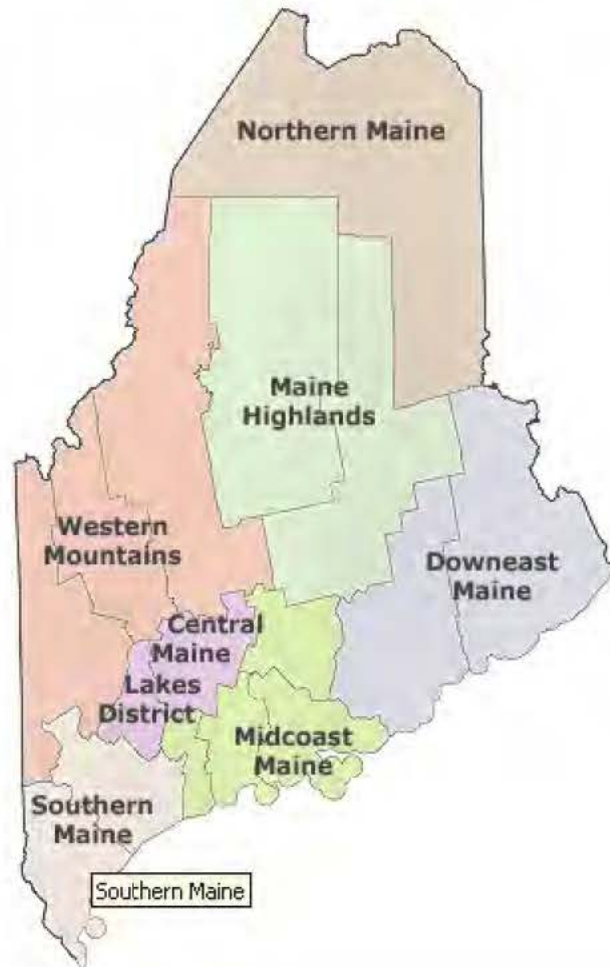
**Bear River Rips**

## Land for Maine's Future



### Project Map by Region

LMF funded projects are across the state of Maine. Mouse over the map below to see how many LMF projects are in a particular region. Click on a region to view a list and summary of all the projects in that region.



#### Regional Information

Region:  
**Southern Maine**

Counties:  
**York, Cumberland**

Number of projects:  
**26**

#### LMF Project Center

[Project Directory](#)  
[Project Search](#)  
[Project Map by Region](#)

Sharing a commitment to providing public access to Maine's special places, development of the LMF Project Center was made possible by a grant from **LLBean**.

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## Jordan Farm

### [Guidelines for Use of LMF Properties](#)



### Project Description

The William Jordan family has been operating their farm in Cape Elizabeth for more than half a century, with much of their extended family still involved in agricultural operations. The Jordans sell vegetables wholesale and through a farm stand, and run a popular pick-your-own strawberry operation. The farm's success is due to the family's hard work, the land's productive soils, and the fact that Cape Elizabeth has the longest growing season in Maine (due to the coast's moderating influence). Area residents cherish this local landmark where they come to buy fresh produce and enjoy scenic vistas out over the farmfields to Spurwink Marsh and the historic Spurwink Church. Each fall, busloads of local schoolchildren arrive to pick pumpkins, feed the chickens and sample the farm's wares. [Jordan Farm](#) also supplies two local food pantries and provides low-income seniors with fresh produce through the State's Farm-Share Program. The Jordan family wanted to maintain this farming tradition, but as area land values soared, the pressures to sell for development increased. Three nearby farms all sold and were built out, the most recent one into a 97-lot subdivision. The Jordans chose another path, offering to sell development rights on key portions of their farm (a strategy that lowers the property value, making it more affordable to keep land in productive use). With support from the family and the [Cape Elizabeth Land Trust](#) and funding from the Land for Maine's Future Program, and the USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust acquired an easement on Jordan Farm that prevents future subdivision or development and promotes its continued farming. Jordan Farm abuts Spurwink Marsh (part of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge), providing important wildlife habitat as well as local produce. Hay is cut late in the season to protect threatened birds such as bobolinks and eastern meadowlarks that nest in the fields. Please note: On private farms protected with Land for Maine's Future Program support, public access is by landowner permission only. Please see the icons to determine allowed uses and follow any guidance posted on the property. For more information on how to obtain landowner permission, contact [Stephanie Gilbert](#) at the Maine Department of Agriculture.



[\(click to enlarge\)](#)



**Closest Town**  
Cape Elizabeth

**Region**  
Southern Maine - York,  
Cumberland

**Acres**  
47

**Directions from closest town**

DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer Map 3, A-4. From Broadway in South Portland, take Route 77 toward Cape Elizabeth, turning right in 2 miles onto Scott Dyer Road. At the intersection with Spurwink Road (in 1 mile) go straight onto Wells Road. The farmstand is on the right less than one-tenth mile from the intersection of the Spurwink and Wells Roads.

**LMF Project Center**

# How have Maine citizens benefited?

- **Improved Public Access** *to outdoor recreation opportunities*
- **Tourism** *enhanced with conserved lands*
- **Rural enterprises** *supported with working lands (marine fisheries, agriculture & forestry)*
- **Natural heritage** *protected for future generations*



